

Bonhomme, Penny

From: Fournier, Kelley
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 8:20 AM
To: PHC Testimony
Subject: Testimony for March 7th Public Hearing -- SB 56

Attachments: MarieHatcher.PHTestimony.Mar7.docx; DebbiePrince.PHTestimony.Mar7.docx;
MelissaServiss.PHTestimony.Mar7.doc

To Whom It May Concern,

Attached please find three documents, all of which are testimony from Sen. McLachlan's constituents regarding SB 56, AAC Pulse Oximetry Screening for Newborn Infants, which will be heard at the March 7th Public Hearing. Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at extension 0068.

Best,

Kelley A. Fournier

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MarieHatcher DebbiePrince MelissaServiss
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My name is Melissa Serviss, and I am the mother of a five month old with a Congenital Heart Defect called Coarctation of the Aorta.

Arabella was diagnosed early and was given medicine after birth to help her body keep her "fetal blood flow going" until she could have the life saving open heart surgery she so desperately needed. Arabella was not sent home like a healthy newborn. But she could have been. Others in her situation went home only to be airlifted back to the hospital hours or days later due to this condition. I know because I have heard their stories. And then there are some that never made it back to the hospital. I have heard their stories too, and I would like to represent and honor them today through this letter.

Every day critically ill newborns are released from the hospital because they have a Congenital Heart Defect that has gone undetected. Looking healthy and normal these babies are not diagnosed until they present with symptoms such as turning blue or becoming cyanotic or weak. For many the help comes too late and parents are left to bury a child that could have been saved. .

A simple pulse oximetry screening can let doctors know that there is an issue with the heart before they are discharged. It takes a few minutes, requires a band aid like device on the foot or hand, and costs less than a dollar. Once diagnosed, these infants can then get the life saving medicine or surgery that they need. Many defects are very treatable and the prognosis is rather good if caught early.

Some say a society can be measured in the way it helps those who cannot help themselves. By passing this bill you are promising the newborns of Connecticut a chance at life, and helping those who cannot speak for themselves.

Please join other states which have adopted and are on their way to adopting similar legislation. I believe and trust in you to make a difference. Please vote YES to RSB 56.